

LPFM is one of many possible solutions to our increasingly consolidated and decentralized media system. The arguments against LPFM have been proven groundless over and over again, but the powerful interests against it keep bringing up the same points, while trying to impose a non-local, non-community-oriented solution that uses satellite feeds to pipe in generic content to localities.

Remember that Low Power FM Radio is designed to allow community churches, schools, chambers of commerce, and other not-for-profit groups to broadcast to their local communities. In no way will LPFM hinder peoples' ability to enjoy positive, alternative broadcasts. And local broadcasters worried that their signals will get pushed off the air have been proved wrong time and time again - LPFM, properly managed, does not affect larger commercial broadcast stations. Instead, it is the only real alternative to them and their own .

One important way to ensure that our national media serves the public interest is to make sure people in communities understand the ins and outs of producing material for radio and television. Young people who decide to pursue careers in broadcasting will thus start off with a community focus, and others in the community - including teens and the elderly -- will have training and an outlet to allow them to share their views with the greater community. Also, their broadcasting education will enable them to speak up with confidence for community media in general.

I live in New York now, but I have lived in several less self-focused cities and rarely is there any broadcast station giving local news or a voice to local organizations.

Prometheus radio has pointed out that the licensing system as it stands gives preference to remote, out-of-state companies looking to rebroadcast on thousands of channels nationwide, rather than to local entities who want just one community radio station. LPFM brings choice, community, and - frankly - sanity to the broadcast smorgasbord. Please do the right thing and allow LPFM its rightful place in the broadcast spectrum.